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Letter dated 30 November 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter addressed to you by Mr. Osman Ertuğ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 54, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) İnal BATU
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 30 November 1993 from Mr. Osman Ertug addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the recent upsurge in the negative statements made by the Greek Cypriot side against the package of confidence-building measures (CBMs) currently being discussed in Cyprus. The unconstructive attitude displayed by these statements confirms that, despite initial appearances to the contrary, the Greek Cypriot side does not actually accept the package. Below are some specific examples:

1. In answer to a question as to whether he would accept the landing of Turkish Cypriot aircraft registered in Turkey at the Nicosia International Airport (NIA), in an interview with a correspondent of the Turkish daily "Milliyet" on 6 October 1993 in New York, Mr. Glafcos Clerides, the leader of the Greek Cypriot administration, said "no...if the question implies that the so-called Turkish Cypriot airlines would have the right to land at NIA, my answer is 'no'..." Mr. Clerides added that, when he became aware of this, he had written a letter to Your Excellency "clarifying" his position on the matter.

2. Mr. Spyros Kyprianou, the leader of the Greek Cypriot political party "DIKO" and one of the political allies of Mr. Clerides both during and after the last elections, described the CBMs as "terrifying" and expressed his strong opposition to the contacts carried out by the two teams of UN experts in Cyprus in connection with the CBM package by calling their visit "untimely and without basis" (Greek Cypriot daily "AGON" dated 28 October 1993).

In another instance, Mr. Kyprianou repeated his unequivocal opposition to the CBMs by stating "we were opposed to the CBMs to begin with. After the meeting with UN experts we saw also practical obstacles proving the drawbacks of the CBMs. We are of the view that these CBMs cannot be implemented" (Greek Cypriot daily "Eleftherotipia" dated 28 October 1993).

3. Another Greek Cypriot political party leader, Dr. Vassos Lyssarides of "EDEK", has called for the outright rejection of the CBMs. Referring to a unanimous decision of the Greek Cypriot National Council, Dr. Lissarides said "there is no alternative other than turning down the CBMs in accordance with this decision" (Greek Cypriot daily "Filelefitheros" dated 31 October 1993).

4. In a letter he sent to Mr. Clerides, the Secretary-General of the Greek Cypriot Communist party "AKEL", Mr. Christofias, has criticized the Greek Cypriot leader for "having accepted the reopening of Nicosia International Airport in return for the opening of the closed part of Varosha" (Greek Cypriot press of 3 November 1993). According to the Greek Cypriot daily "AGON" of 28 October 1993, Mr. Christofias also stated that "his doubts about the CBMs increased after meeting with the UN experts".

5. Mr. Alexis Ghalanos, President of the Greek Cypriot House of Representatives, joined the other leaders in rejecting the CBMs by describing them as "unacceptable" (Greek Cypriot daily "Filelefitheros" dated 10 November 1993). Similarly, the leader of the Greek Cypriot Liberal Party, Mr. Nikos Rolandis, has described the CBMs as "unacceptable" for the Greek Cypriot side ("Filelefitheros" dated 7 November 1993).

6. Virtually the entire Greek Cypriot press has been voicing strong opposition to the CBMs. A typical example is the following extract from an article in "Agon" newspaper of 28 October 1993:

> "As details of the implementation of the UN proposed CBMs are becoming known, opposition to them among the Greek Cypriots is growing to the point of horror."

Commenting on the CBMs, "Eleftherotipia" newspaper of the same date pointed to the "great danger" posed by the package; while "Filelefitheros" underlined that "after meeting with the UN experts, Greek Cypriot party leaders successively expressed their worries and disappointment" in this regard.

It is our firm belief that this mounting opposition to the CBMs voiced by the Greek Cypriot side, leadership and media alike, is a typical example of the insincere negotiating tactics of the other side, of pretending to accept something when it actually does not. It is also indicative the difficulties involved in engaging in result-oriented negotiations with the Greek Cypriot side for reconciliation and a viable solution.

I would be grateful if the present letter is circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 54, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUG
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus